

CLASSIFICATION

COUNTRY

Germany

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TOPIC

Cottbus Airfield

EVALUATION

see below

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DATE OF CONTENT

8 April to 2 May 1952

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DATE PREPARED

20 May 1952

REFERENCES

PAGES

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ENCLOSURES

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1. Between 12:30 and 12:50 p.m. on 8 April 1952, there was no flying at Cottbus airfield. Two jet bombers, about 11 Pe-2s and 2 large transports were parked in front of the hangars. Between 3 and 3:20 p.m. on 9 April, jet bombers practiced flying in sunny weather. The following take-offs and landings were observed:

TimeTake-OffLanding

2:10 p.m.

1 jet bomber

2:16 p.m.

1 jet bomber 25X1

2:23 p.m.

2:25 p.m.

1 jet bomber

2:26 p.m.

2:33 p.m.

2:40 p.m.

1 jet bomber

2:47 p.m.

Between 10:30 and 10:50 a.m. on 12 April, there was no flying although the weather was favorable.

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2. Between 2:30 and 4:30 p.m. on 10 April, take-offs and landings were made by a type-27 plane and a type-30 plane was repeatedly observed taking off.

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No Change In Class. ☐☐ Declassified

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3. Source observed the field on 12 April between 7 and 11 a.m. and between 1 and 4:30 p.m. Two type-27s, 1 type-30, 3 twin-engine planes with nose wheels, 1 biplane, 1 Li-2 and an unidentified number of Pe-2s were observed. A type-30 plane with the red No 02 practiced take-offs and landings. Two type-27 jet bombers [redacted] circled the field for 30 minutes. The Li-2 plane continually made flights of 40 to 60 minutes. The type-27 planes had a belly turret and two tail guns each. On 13 and 14 April, there was no flying. On 15 April, source observed jet bombers, not assigned to the field, which landed at the field beginning at 10 a.m. These planes took off again in flight formation.

4. [redacted]

5. Between 7:30 a.m. and 5 p.m. on 16 April, jet bombers made individual take-offs. The field was occupied by 3 jet bombers, 3 twin-engine planes with nose wheels, 1 biplane, and an unidentified number of Pe-2s. Between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. on 18 April, three jet bombers [redacted] took off and practiced flying for 40 minutes. On 17, 20 and 21 April, there was no flying.

6. On 23 April, only a few take-offs were made from the field. Two type-27s with [redacted] and a type-30 [redacted] were observed. The same aircraft made local flights of 60 to 90 minutes on 24 and 26 April. AA guns were emplaced north of the fuel dump. (2)

7. On 15 April, 21 jet bombers were observed at the field. On various days between 10 and 20 April, 48 twin-engine conventional aircraft and 3 jet bombers were counted in the dispersal areas.

8. Between 2 and 5 p.m. on 15 April, many trucks with personnel and various equipment left the field toward Berlin. At 7 p.m. on 21 April, five tank trucks with trailers moved from the field in the same direction.

9. Between 10:45 a.m. and 2 p.m. on 2 May, 4 jet bombers, 11 Pe-2s and an unidentified number of twin-engine aircraft were observed at the field. All the hangars were closed, except one. There was no flying. (4)

Comments.

(1) The landing jet bomber unit is the bomber regiment from Brand airfield, which probably took off from Cottbus airfield for bombing practice over the Lieberose bombing range north of Cottbus.

(2) [redacted]

(3) Antiaircraft artillery has been also observed at the other three border airfields in Brand, Vornuchen and Wuerstenwalde since April 1952. It is believed that, as at other bomber airfields, heavy AA guns have been emplaced at Cottbus airfield.

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- (4) The report confirms that the bomber regiment has made progress in training with B-25s and jet bombers. In addition to 3 B-25s, 2 type-27s and 1 type-30, the regiment is apparently still equipped with its previous strength of B-25s, presumably at least 40.

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